

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to improve readability. No claims have been added or canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-13 remain pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,886,160). Claims 4, 8 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee. These rejections are traversed as follows.

Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131

Filed concurrently with this paper is a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 signed by the inventor that swears back of the Lee reference. In particular, the Declaration establishes that the presently-claimed invention was reduced to practice before November 29, 2000, the effective date of the Lee reference. Accordingly, the rejections of the claims are traversed.

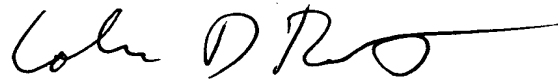
Appl. No. 10/774,471
Amendment
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2006

Docket No. 274.43020CX2

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin D. Barnitz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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